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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 21 MAY 29, 2006

Miners, UMWA win settlement of labor fight at Co-Op mine

Bosses drop suit against union backers; June 4 celebration set in Price, Utah

BY PAUL MAILHOT

PRICE, Utah—Coal miners who led a hard fought union-organizing campaign, along with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), have negotiated a settlement with C.W. Mining Co., owner of the Co-Op Mine in Huntington, Utah. The agreement was reached on the eve of a May 16 National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hearing on the company's firing of pro-union miners. The hearing has now been canceled.

The settlement also came on the heels of a May 1 written ruling by Federal Judge Dee Benson in Salt Lake City who threw out six of the coal company's seven claims against the miners and their supporters. These include immigration fraud, unfair labor practices, violation of the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), and civil conspiracy. C.W. Mining had leveled these charges in a retaliatory lawsuit it filed in federal court in September 2004. (See article in last week's *Militant.*)

In negotiating the settlement, the miners insisted that the company's "defamation" charges be dismissed against all remaining defendants in that lawsuit—the UMWA, *Militant* newspaper, and Utah Jobs with Justice. The settlement with C.W. Mining releases each of these defendants, as well as all those included by the company in two earlier complaints.

"It would have been an injustice for any-

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Legalization now!

Unconditional residency for all immigrants

The demonstrations by millions of immigrant workers and their supporters across the United States have put on the political agenda the demand

EDITORIAL

"Legalization now!" Fighting for legislation to grant immediate and unconditional residency to all immigrants is a pressing necessity for the working class and labor movement.

In a May 15 speech, President George Bush proposed legislation tailored to serve the needs of the bosses. His "middle ground" on immigration was quickly rejected by both friends and enemies, an

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Militant/Sam Manuel

Hundreds protest in Washington May 17 to demand legal status for all undocumented immigrants.

Clinics in Bolivia operated by Cuban doctors gain popularity

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Clinics offering quality medical care to all, staffed largely by Cuban volunteer doctors, and a nascent government-sponsored literacy program with aid from Cuba and Venezuela, are gaining popularity among Bolivia's working people. At the same time, Bolivian president Evo Morales has announced that his government's decision to take greater state control of the country's natural gas and oil resources may not include compensation to some of the foreign companies that are nationalized.

At the inauguration in late April of the third ophthalmologic eye care center in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Cuban vice minister of foreign affairs Rafael Dausa reported that Cuban doctors, nurses, and technicians are now providing free care in 180 municipalities across the nine provinces of Bolivia. Since the program, Operation Miracle, was launched in Bolivia in early February, nearly 375,000 patients have been treated. "Dausa said that in this period 687 lives were saved and eyesight has been restored to 7,613 Bolivians in

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Washington bans U.S. arms sales to Venezuela gov't

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

Washington has escalated its confrontationist course with the government of Venezuela. On May 15, the Bush administration announced it has banned U.S. arms sales to that country. Thomas Shannon, assistant secretary of state for the Western Hemisphere, told the press the decision was made, in part, because the government headed by President Hugo Chávez "has a relationship with

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Bush's friends and foes alike scorn his 'middle ground' on immigration

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

As the U.S. Senate resumed debate on immigration "reform" legislation, President George Bush gave a nationally televised speech on the issue May 15. He called on Congress to approve a law that will reinforce border police operations, establish a "temporary worker" program, and allow for many undocumented immigrants living in the United States to obtain permanent residency under certain conditions.

Immediately after his speech, many of Bush's friends and foes rejected his "middle ground" on immigration.

Rejecting a bill adopted by the House of Representatives that would make felons of all immigrants without papers, the president argued that it was not "realistic" to deport the millions of undocumented. Instead, he advocated taking a "rational middle ground," and pushed for many elements of a bipartisan immigration bill being debated in the Senate. He also proposed the deployment of up to 6,000 National Guard troops to provide logistical support to the Border Patrol.

The debate in Washington takes place after weeks of street mobilizations by

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Join effort to expand 'Militant' readership!

Letter from the editor

Dear Reader,

Join us in expanding the *Militant's* readership! We are raising our spring subscription goal and extending the circulation drive by one week to June 7.

We've made these decisions based on new opportunities for militant workers to effectively resist the bosses' anti-labor offensive. The mass movement for the legalization of undocumented immigrants in the United States is one indication. Now more than ever, working people and youth attracted to labor's cause need the *Militant.* And a growing number are signing up.

Of the 1,800 people who have subscribed in the last five weeks, more than half signed up at the immigrant rights rallies on April 9–10 and on May Day. This brings us close to meeting the initial goal of 2,000 well ahead of schedule.

The success by coal miners and their

Continued on page 4

Socialist workers build party's nat'l convention

BY RÓGER CALERO

The Socialist Workers Party announced it will hold its 44th constitutional convention June 15–17, in Oberlin, Ohio.

"The convention is taking place in the midst of a deepening social crisis in which the fate of the unions is intertwined with the fate of the political struggle for legalization of all immigrant workers liv-

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Special Militant Labor Forums

Celebrate Utah miners' victory in dropping of Co-Op Mine lawsuit!

Saturday, May 20
Los Angeles
6 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Program
Speakers: Bill Estrada, former Co-Op miner and participant in union organizing struggle; and others

Sunday, May 21
Birmingham
2 p.m. Reception
3 p.m. Program
Speakers: Paul Mailhot, organizer of the Militant Fighting Fund; and others

San Francisco (May 21)
2:30 p.m. Reception
3 p.m. Program
Speakers: Bill Estrada and others

Seattle (May 21)
2 p.m. Dinner,
3 p.m. Program
Speakers: Alyson Kennedy and others

Friday, May 26
New York
7 p.m. Dinner
8 p.m. Program
Speakers: Alyson Kennedy, former Co-Op miner and participant in union organizing struggle; and others

Saturday, May 27
Houston
6 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program
Speakers: Bill Estrada and others

Pittsburgh
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program
Speakers: Alyson Kennedy and others

Twin Cities
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program
Speakers: Paul Mailhot and others

For local contact information, see directory on page 8

Also Inside:

ON THE PICKET LINE

Court rules Smithfield violated workers' right to organize union

A federal appeals court ruled May 8 that Smithfield Packing violated the rights of workers seeking to organize a union at its giant hog-kill plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina. The ruling upheld a cease-and-desist order that the National Labor Relations Board issued against Smithfield in 2004 in response to complaints filed by the United Food and Commercial Workers. The union lost a 1997 election by a 1,910 to 1,107 vote. The court ruling noted that Smithfield had confiscated union materials, spied on workers' union activities, and threatened to fire those who voted for the union and freeze wages and shut the plant if workers voted to unionize. The judges ordered the company to give back pay to 10 workers fired for supporting the union, a union attorney told the Associated Press. The court also ruled Smithfield must reinstate four fired workers.

—Brian Williams

Steelworkers rally for contract at Charlotte, N.C., tire plant

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Chanting "No contract, no peace," 500 United Steelworkers Local 850 members and supporters rallied here April 29 on the eve of the expiration of their contract with Continental Tire Co.

On May 1 the company declared an impasse in talks, imposed a 15 percent wage cut, and announced it would end tire production at the plant in the fall. It had demanded a 35 percent cut in wages and benefits.

"Steelworkers and others concerned will follow this company to the ends of the earth to expose the unfair ways they are treating employees," Mark West, a member of the Local 850 executive board, said in an interview. Referring to a strike in 1998–99, West said, "I think that's when a lot of people got involved in the union. They woke up a sleeping giant."

—Rachele Fruit



Militant/Bill Arth

Members of International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422 from Charleston, South Carolina, join April 29 rally to support United Steelworkers Local 850 members in their fight for a new contract with Continental Tire in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Toronto: Unionists reject pay cuts, strike Progistix-Solutions

TORONTO—More than 200 members of Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union Local 26, who repair and ship communications equipment, began a strike here April 22 against Progistix-Solutions Inc. The walkout began after 60 percent of the workers rejected the company's concessions offer. Progistix, now owned by Canada Post, is demanding pay cuts of up to Can$3.48 per hour as well as reductions in pensions, vacations, and paid holidays (Can$1=U.S. 90 cents). "We went to Canada Post with an information picket and received a good response from unionists there," John Pendyk told *Militant* reporters May 8 on the picket line. "Solidarity is needed more than ever nowadays," added a material attendant who preferred not to give his name.

—Beverly Bernardo

Unionists in Pittsburgh condemn lack of mine safety

PITTSBURGH—Some 250 unionists gathered here April 28 for Workers' Memorial Day to remember those killed on the job. This year's event highlighted the spate of deaths in the coal mines. United Mine Workers of America president Cecil Roberts told the rally, "We can put a man on the moon, but we can't put a communications system in a mine here in the United States. We don't have enough mine rescue teams in America. And we do nothing about it."

Working and retired miners came from the southwestern Pennsylvania coalfields to attend the event. Chuck Knisell, a UMWA member at the Sago Mine, rang a bell with a sledgehammer as the name of each miner killed on the job over the past year was read aloud.

—Tony Lane

University of Miami janitors win card check system for union

MIAMI—University of Miami janitors returned to work May 3 after winning the agreement of contractor UNICCO Services for a card check system for union representation. A March 1 strike by a limited number of the 900 workers received broad support from workers and students on the campus and around the city. They seek representation with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 11.

The May 1 agreement between the contractor and the SEIU states that a 60 percent majority must sign cards by August 1 in order for the workers to win union recognition.

"I'm going to return with my head held high, protected by the name of the union, which is rare in the state of Florida," said janitor Maritza Paz, the *Miami Herald* reported.

—Deborah Liatos

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Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Debate over new CIA chief is about military's transformation

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—President George Bush nominated Air Force General Michael Hayden to head the CIA May 8. Until April 2005 Hayden played a central role in a program at the National Security Agency (NSA) to wiretap international phone calls originating from the United States. His nomination comes amid new revelations that the government paid telephone companies for domestic phone records of its customers as part of the NSA spy program.

Hayden will replace Porter Goss, who took over 20 months ago amid congressional hearings on "intelligence failures" of the CIA and other spy agencies leading up to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The CIA's standing among government spy agencies continued to decline under Goss. The Defense Department has complained in the past about the inability of the CIA to provide adequate numbers of "terrorist" targets in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Pentagon, which controls 80 percent of the funding for all government spying activities, has expanded its spy operations into areas that were previously the domain of the CIA.

Critics of Hayden's nomination have expressed concern about public perception in the choice of a military officer to head an ostensibly civilian agency. Hayden would in fact be the fifth active duty officer to head the CIA.

House Intelligence Committee chairman Peter Hoekstra, a Republican, called the nomination, "the wrong person at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Sen. John Kerry said he has "serious reservations" about the nomination because of Hayden's participation in the domestic surveillance program at NSA. Sen. Joseph Biden, like Kerry a Democrat, added that the nomination gives the impression that the CIA is being consumed by the Defense Department.

Others disagree. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, also a Democrat, spoke for the nomination. "Rumsfeld wanted to control the NSA, to his credit Hayden stood up," she said, referring to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's opposition to a proposal by Hayden to move the NSA from the Defense Department to the office of the Director of National Intelligence. Rumsfeld prevailed.

News accounts of Hayden's nomination have centered on speculation that it will aid the Defense Department's efforts to expand its control over all government spying. In response to such questions, Rumsfeld was more pointed than usual at a May 9 Pentagon briefing. "The quality of the debate on this subject is pedestrian and unimpressive," he said. "It should be a bit embarrassing for people to see what's going on."

The Pentagon not only controls the lion's share of funds for spying, but, unlike the CIA and FBI, its operations are exempt from interference by the new Director of Intelligence, John Negroponte.

Rumsfeld took advantage of questions at the Pentagon briefing to talk about the need to transform military intelligence, alongside the radical changes underway in the strategy, order of battle, and global deployment of the U.S. armed forces aimed at fighting a "long war" against Washington's adversaries with lighter and more lethal and mobile units.

"If you talk to our combatant commanders, I think probably the thing they mention the most is the fact that they wish they had more intelligence, that they wish they had more timely intelligence, that they wish they were able to access information in this new 21st century that's more appropriate to the 21st century," Rumsfeld said.

The defense secretary implied that U.S. spy operations today remain stuck in the Cold War mode, when they were focused on the large armies, air forces, and ballistic missiles of the Soviet bloc. "It's quite another thing when you're dealing—moving away from that kind of a world where you're worried about nation states with big military entities, into an asymmetric world with irregular warfare, with non-nation states, with people functioning in countries that we're not at war with," he said.

"The wall between intelligence and operations has already been lowered and the dream is eventually to do away with it altogether," wrote William Arkin, a former U.S. Army intelligence officer, in the May 9 *Washington Post*. Unlike CIA analysts, the soldiers involved in spying "are not collectors collecting for collection sake," Arkin said. "They are directly supporting the commander."

College students in Florida protest killing at boot camp of African-American teenager



MIAMI—More than 2,000 students marched to the state capitol in Tallahassee April 21 to demand justice for Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old Black youth beaten to death by guards at a boot camp where he had been sent for a probation violation. The January 6 assault by the guards was captured on video.

Many marchers likened the case to that of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old victim of a racist lynching in Mississippi in 1955. The students—from Florida A&M University, Florida State University, and Tallahassee Community College—are demanding the arrest of the guards who beat Anderson. Guy Tunnell, head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, who had tried to prevent the video of the beating from being released, resigned on April 20 after it was revealed he had made jokes comparing Sen. Barack Obama and Jesse Jackson, who were scheduled to speak at the rally, with Osama bin Laden and Jesse James.

—MAGGIE TROWE

Washington, Moscow clash over Central Asian oil

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Moscow has "unfairly and improperly restricted the rights of her people," used oil and gas as "tools of intimidation or blackmail," and has carried out actions that "undermine the territorial integrity" of its neighbors. This is what U.S. vice president Richard Cheney said in a May 4 keynote address to a conference of nine heads of state of former Soviet Republics held in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The speech showed that Washington is on a collision course with Moscow as the U.S. rulers extend their reach deeper into the republics that once made up the Soviet Union. These steps pose a challenge to the Kremlin's influence from Central Asia to the Baltic States.

The governments of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, and Georgia participated in the conference. Six of them have become members of NATO, the U.S.-led military alliance, over the last decade. In the past year, Washington has secured agreements from the governments of Bulgaria and Romania to set up U.S. military bases in those countries.

Washington has also taken the lead in pressing the European Union (EU) to accept as members the former Soviet-bloc countries. The governments of four of the countries at the conference—the three Baltic states and Poland—joined the EU in 2004 and those of Romania and Bulgaria are seeking membership.

In his speech in Lithuania, Cheney greeted the "brave leaders of color revolutions"—a reference to the Georgian president who came to power in the 2003 "Rose Revolution" and the Ukrainian president who won an election after the 2005 "Orange Revolution." Both included mass protests that brought down pro-Moscow regimes, replacing them with ones more closely allied with Washington and its allies in Europe.

Cheney's speech showed "the cold war has restarted, only now the front line has shifted," the Moscow business daily *Kommersant* said, comparing it to one Winston Churchill gave in 1946 warning that an "Iron Curtain" had divided the Soviet bloc from western Europe.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, a pro-Kremlin daily, wrote, "Asia has stayed with Moscow, but former socialist Europe has gone over to the American side." The paper asked: "What is Russia to do? Evidently it needs to strengthen links with Belarus and central Asia. And get friendly with China, to counterbalance this western might."

In a televised national address six days after Cheney's speech, Russian president Vladimir Putin said Moscow needed to "build our home and make it strong and well protected." In a veiled reference to Washington, Putin said, "We see…what is going on in the world. The wolf knows who to eat, as the saying goes…. And is not about to listen to anyone."

Putin said it "is too early to speak of an end to the arms race," pointing out the U.S. defense budget "in absolute figures is almost 25 times bigger than Russia's." He said Moscow is producing "the first nuclear submarines to be completed in modern Russia"—that is, since the Soviet Union's collapse in the early 1990s.

Cheney's next stop after the Vilnius conference was oil-rich Kazakhstan where he reportedly pressed for greater direct U.S. access to the 1.2 million barrels of oil produced each day in the Central Asian republic. "In an echo of the 19th-century 'Great Game' involving colonial possessions in Central Asia, the United States is seeking to weaken Russia's control over oil and natural gas exports by supporting [pipeline] routes that bypass Russia while avoiding Iran," said an article in the May 6–7 *International Herald Tribune*.

Cheney's trip followed a visit to Washington by Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev. Natural gas and oil will start flowing this year from that Central Asian republic through a pipeline across Georgia to Turkey, "marking a major strategic gain for the U.S. in the Caspian energy arena," said the *Financial Times*.

U.S. gov't conducts war maneuvers in Caribbean

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

Since April 4 the U.S government has deployed the aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* to the Caribbean with an entourage of several warships and 35 F-18 fighter jets. Dubbed "Partnership of the Americas," this military operation involves 6,500 U.S. troops and is set to last until the end of May.

"They are running maneuvers, right here," said Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez during an April 18 address in the country's coastal state of Falcon. Curaçao, one of the Caribbean countries participating in the U.S.-led maneuvers, is 35 miles north of Venezuelan shores.

"This is a threat not only against Venezuela but also against Cuba," said Chávez. U.S. officials have repeatedly charged that these two governments are "destabilizing" forces in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Washington presents these maneuvers as training of its regional allies in combating "human and drug trafficking" and "terrorism."

In April the Pentagon also carried out "Operation New Horizons" in the Dominican Republic to train 3,500 local troops. The "acres of armored vehicles, aircraft and olive-drab shelters" sparked protests by hundreds in Santo Domingo, reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

Beginning May 23, the U.S. Southern Command is projecting "Enjoy Caribbean Lion 2006" maneuvers in Guadalupe and Curaçao, involving 4,000 NATO troops.

The Venezuelan government announced April 26 it would conduct its own maneuvers on its coastline with 10,000 troops and 3,500 civilian reservists, said the Associated Press. Venezuelan officials also announced plans for joint operations with Curaçao, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Brazil. "We also have the capacity to show our teeth," said Vice Admiral Armando Laguna.

Miners, UMWA win settlement

Continued from front page

one to be left in the lawsuit, especially since it was these groups who were our strongest backers throughout the fight," said a leader of the organizing drive, who asked that his name not be used in this article.

"The miners felt it was important for the lawsuit to be dropped for everyone," former Co-Op miner Guillermo Hernández told the *Militant*. "We are all glad it is being withdrawn as part of this settlement."

"The way this was settled is a victory for us," Hernández said.

Miners who were involved in the union-organizing campaign at Co-Op are planning for a Mexican dinner celebration at the UMWA hall here in Price on Sunday, June 4.

"It's a way to say thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout this long struggle," said one of the miners. "We want to keep our friendship with the union and our supporters. We may need those ties again in the future."

Fired for union activity

In addition to releasing all defendants from the lawsuit, C.W. Mining agreed as part of the settlement to pay back wages to six miners who were fired in September 2003 or in December 2004.

The company fired 30 workers in all, one week before a union representation election at the mine in December 2004, using the pretext that it had recently learned that most of the workers were undocumented. Nearly every supporter of the UMWA in the mine was terminated.

A year later, in December 2005, NLRB Region 27 Director Allan Benson ruled that the firings were discriminatory against the miners and were aimed at "discouraging membership in a labor organization." This NLRB determination still stands.

As part of the settlement, two of the fired miners, Guillermo Hernández and Alyson Kennedy, decided not to exercise their rights to return to work at Co-Op.

The canceled May 16 NLRB hearing would have heard arguments on C.W. Mining's objections to the NLRB Region 27 director's determination that the firings had been discriminatory. Had the regional director's findings been upheld, the union election ballots would have been counted.

As a result of company firings, however, there are no longer any UMWA supporters working at the mine. Moreover, the company alleges it is precluded by federal immigration law from rehiring any of the other miners fired in December 2004. According to miners in the area, the Co-Op workforce is now almost exclusively members of the Kingston family who own the mine.

"I wasn't going back to Co-Op unless there was going to be respect and dignity there," said Hernández, who put in 18 years at the mine and was making $7.40 an hour when he was fired.

As part of the recent settlement, the UMWA has withdrawn its claim to represent current or former employees at the mine.

The fight at Co-Op

According to miners involved in the struggle, the mostly Mexican immigrants who worked at Co-Op began their fight for safety, dignity on job, and better wages in the fall of 2003. Underground miners' starting pay was $5.50 an hour there.



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Miners, fired for their support of the United Mine Workers union, organize picket at C.W. Mining–owned Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, Oct. 3, 2003.

After the miners turned to the UMWA for representation, the company began to harass and discipline union supporters. On Sept. 22, 2003, the company suspended Bill Estrada, one of the miners who supported the union, setting the stage to fire him. The company had earlier tried to fire two other UMWA supporters, but miners had turned back those attempts.

Rather than accept Estrada's firing, virtually the entire workforce put down their tools and confronted the bosses outside the mine office. When the miners, after two or three hours of arguing with supervisors, refused to back down and return to work, the company called in the sheriff and locked the workers out.

Some 75 miners turned the company's lockout into a strike, which received widespread media coverage and won support from the union movement and from other organizations and individuals throughout Utah and the West, across the United States, and internationally from New Zealand, to Canada, to the United Kingdom.

The picket line was set up during the dead of winter. Retired UMWA miners showed up at the line early on with donated food and other assistance. "We were the first ones there," Bob Fivecoat, a retired coal miner and member of UMWA Local 9958 in nearby East Carbon, told the *Militant*. "We're extremely proud to have stood with these miners from the very beginning."

The strikers attracted the support of miners, union and nonunion alike, throughout Carbon and Emery counties. The local Catholic Church established a fund to help miners pay their rent and utility bills. Unions and other groups and individuals helped sustain

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Help expand 'Militant' readership

Continued from front page

allies in Huntington, Utah, in pushing back the courtroom assault by C.W. Mining Co. (see article on front page) is another reason to go the extra mile over the next three weeks. This is a victory not only for the workers who fought to unionize the Co-Op mine and for the United Mine Workers of America. It is a victory for all labor.

Those who endorsed and contributed to the Militant Fighting Fund, which raised funds to defend the *Militant* and publicized the defense of all defendants in the coal bosses' retaliatory suit, have reason to rejoice. They can spread the word and urge participation in the June 4 celebration in Price, Utah, that the miners have called. Getting the *Militant* around will contribute to this effort by publicizing the accomplishments and lessons of this important struggle.

At its May 13–15 meeting held in New York, the Socialist Workers Party National Committee decided to lead the party and each of its branches in a campaign toward selling 3,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* by June 7. The decision was taken after consultation during the gathering with local party units and with the Young Socialists leadership.

Your help is needed.

If you don't already receive a weekly bundle, I urge you to contact us to order one now and help sell subscriptions (see contact information on page 2). Or get in touch with *Militant* distributors nearest you and join them in outreach teams they organize (see directory on page 8).

All distributors can review their subscription quotas and consider increasing them, as many have already done. If this is your first time in this effort, please consider adopting a quota.

The *Militant* is printing postage-paid, pre-addressed envelopes, with a "Subscribe Now" coupon on the flap in English and Spanish. Distributors can insert these envelopes into copies of the paper to make it easier for those who buy an issue to take the next step and subscribe. You can now order these prepaid envelopes for 25 cents each.

Frank Forrestal, a *Militant* campaigner in Des Moines, Iowa, sent one of the many reports we've received that indicate what's possible. "Another campaigner, Shannon Wohl, and I drove last Saturday to Worthington, Minnesota, where we met with two supporters of the paper from Minneapolis/St. Paul," he said. "We sold the *Militant* at a trailer park near a large meatpacking plant owned by Swift. We sold 18 subscriptions and 11 copies. The previous day, Shannon and I were in South Sioux City, Iowa, and sold the *Militant* at Tyson's Dakota City meatpacking plant. In about two hours, 28 workers bought the paper. Later, we visited a nearby trailer park where several more bought copies and two subscribed."

The *Militant* has also extended the deadline for the Militant Fund campaign to June 7 to allow a little more time to reach out broadly to potential contributors and meet the $90,000 goal. The funds are needed to pay for printing, shipping, utilities, equipment maintenance, and reporting trips. Send your contribution now to The Militant at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,
Argiris Malapanis, Editor

Spring 'Militant' Subscription Drive
April 8 – June 7, 2006
Week 5 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh*	**30**	**27**	**90%**
London	**50**	**43**	**86%**
UK Total	**80**	**70**	**88%**
ICELAND*	**17**	**13**	**76%**
NEW ZEALAND			
Christchurch*	**20**	**17**	**85%**
Auckland*	**35**	**23**	**66%**
N.Z. Total	**55**	**40**	**73%**
AUSTRALIA*	**40**	**28**	**70%**
UNITED STATES			
Amherst, MA	**6**	**5**	**83%**
Seattle*	**145**	**119**	**82%**
Twin Cities*	**200**	**157**	**79%**
San Francisco*	**95**	**72**	**76%**
Des Moines*	**190**	**142**	**75%**
Albany, NY*	**15**	**11**	**73%**
Newark*	**165**	**116**	**70%**
Los Angeles*	**170**	**119**	**70%**
Chicago*	**100**	**68**	**68%**
Miami*	**160**	**109**	**68%**
Washington, DC*	**95**	**65**	**68%**
Tampa*	**15**	**10**	**67%**
Philadelphia*	**130**	**84**	**65%**
Houston*	**140**	**89**	**64%**
Birmingham*	**105**	**66**	**63%**
New York*	**325**	**204**	**63%**
Atlanta	90	56	62%
Boston*	85	53	62%
Price	65	37	57%
Pittsburgh	60	24	40%
Detroit	20	5	25%
U.S. Total	**2376**	**1601**	**67%**
CANADA*	120	65	54%
SWEDEN	35	19	54%
Int'l totals	**2723**	**1836**	**67%**

*increased quota

$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
April 15–June 7 ♦ Week 4 of 7

Country	Quota	Paid	%
FRANCE	**250**	**150**	**60%**
AUSTRALIA*	**1,200**	**685**	**57%**
UNITED STATES			
Tampa	**300**	**350**	**117%**
Atlanta*	**4,500**	**3,450**	**77%**
Chicago	**5,500**	**4,074**	**74%**
New York	**12,000**	**8,215**	**68%**
Newark	**3,500**	**2,250**	**64%**
Boston*	**3,550**	**2,190**	**62%**
San Francisco	**8,500**	**5,165**	**61%**
Albany	**100**	**59**	**59%**
Des Moines*	2,100	1,149	55%
Houston*	3,500	1,940	55%
Philadelphia	3,200	1,687	53%
Miami*	2,400	1,240	52%
Birmingham*	2,000	1,016	51%
Seattle	8,000	3,885	49%
Los Angeles	8,500	3,560	42%
Twin Cities	4,800	1,881	39%
Pittsburgh*	4,200	1,565	37%
Washington, DC	2,500	713	29%
Price	3,000	690	23%
Other		340	
U.S. Total	82,150	45,419	55%
CANADA*	2,500	1,250	50%
ICELAND	200	95	48%
NEW ZEALAND			
Christchurch*	885	337	38%
Auckland	1,500	714	48%
N.Z. Total	2,385	1,051	44%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinbourgh	665	350	53%
London	1,300	465	36%
UK	1,965	815	41%
SWEDEN	640	155	24%
Int'l totals	**91,290**	**49,620**	**55%**
Goal/Should be	**90,000**	**51,300**	**57%**

*increased quota

GREAT SOCIETY

'Law 'n order'—"Officials increase DNA profiles: DNA now taken before convictions"—News headline.



Harry Ring

Can microchips be implanted in puppets?—Alfaro Uribe, president of Colombia, held a discussion with U.S. Congress members this past April. According to Sen. Arlen Specter, the discussion centered on the problem of Colombian workers who do seasonal U.S. farm labor but then don't return home. Specter said that Uribe responded that microchips could be implanted on seasonal workers to ensure their return. Currently, he's been noncommittal on the asserted microchip implantation suggestion.

The sock it to 'em society—"High Gas Prices Will Last Years, Bush Aides Say"—News headline.

Stay off the sidewalk and out of our meeting—In our previous column we reported that a federal appeals court ruled it was "cruel and unusual" punishment for Los Angeles homeless people to be denied the right to sleep on the pavements of downtown skid row from 9:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. The court ruling was won by the American Civil Liberties Union. Meeting behind closed doors, the Los Angeles City Council agreed to appeal this court decision.

May the insurance crooks rot in jail—Nearly 700 Gulfport, Mississippi, home owners have filed suits against State Farm, which sold them insurance but refused to cover the loss of homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Not to hurry—"Milwaukee, Wisconsin—A lawsuit alleges that Taycheedah Correctional Institution's health care is grossly deficient, causing inmates great physical and mental suffering. The federal suit was filed on behalf of all inmates at the state's largest women's prison. The Department of Corrections plans to improve health care over the next six years."—*USA Today.*

Miners, UMWA win settlement of labor fight at Co-Op mine

Continued from page 4

the miners with solidarity activity and financial support.

Turning point in struggle

The failure of the mine owners to get strikers to cross the picket line, and the growing solidarity with the strike, led the company in July 2004 to agree to an NLRB-brokered settlement with the UMWA. The coal operators offered the miners their jobs back and agreed to a union representation election.

With the hiring boom at other coal mines in Carbon and Emery counties, only about half the strikers returned to work at Co-Op. Those miners set out to win over to the union the co-workers who had not supported the strike.

"The company was just as determined as we were," said Estrada. "They did everything they could to turn workers against the union, but by the time of the union vote in December, we had won almost every miner at Co-Op who wasn't a company family member over to our side."

"Something big was opening up for the union in the West toward the end of the strike," said Alyson Kennedy, one of the former Co-Op miners. "It was the real turning point of this fight."

Kennedy said that railroad workers in the area were talking to the strikers about solidarity actions. Union workers at local power plants were talking about challenging their employers' business dealings with Co-Op. Miners from union and nonunion mines in the area were stopping by the picket line to discuss conditions in the surrounding mines, and there was growing interest in the possibilities of organizing some of the nonunion mines.

"It was at that point in the struggle that conditions were the best for coming out of the strike and pressing toward a UMWA local at Co-Op," Kennedy said. "That's what was opening up for us—no matter what our different immigration statuses were—if labor action both in this area, the region, and nationally had been strong enough to reinforce what was being done on the picket line and then when we were back in the mine."

But that's not what happened, she said. "So the ground began to shift."

The bosses pressed the fight onto turf more to their liking, Kennedy said. "They filed the lawsuit, dragging us, the UMWA, and many of our supporters into the courts.

"With the union election only days away, the bossed decided to use the pretext of immigration laws to carry out a second round of firings.

"They couldn't defeat us," Kennedy said, "but the struggle became a standoff."

Retaliatory lawsuit

In September 2004 C.W. Mining and the company-allied International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU) launched their lawsuit in federal court charging 16 miners and nearly every public supporter of the miners' struggle with slander against the company and against the IAUWU. More than 150 defendants were named in the original suit, including the *Militant* newspaper and two of Utah's main dailies, the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News.* Many of the original defendants were subsequently dropped from the suit.

In response to this legal attack, the Militant Fighting Fund was launched in October 2004 to raise funds to help the *Militant* defend itself and publicize the efforts of other defendants, including the miners and the UMWA. Since that time, more than 1,000 organizations and individuals endorsed the fund. These include 26 trade union locals, officers of 10 international unions, and nearly 230 officers of union locals.

In Judge Benson's May 1, 2006, ruling, he dismissed the defamation claims against the two Utah dailies and the miners, calling the employer's slander charges against the miners "an attempt to intimidate [Co-Op's] employees and quell honest discussion concerning labor issues."

The way federal laws are written, said Bob Butero, director of organizing in UMWA Region 4, "immigrant workers don't really have many protections." This is one of the big challenges in union organizing, he said. "The Co-Op miners showed they could fight, and the support for their struggle was overwhelming."

"The UMWA's goal is to organize every coal miner, but that struggle doesn't always end in a union contract," Butero said, adding that he thought the workers at Co-Op had gained through the union fight. Butero said he expects to see more struggles like Co-Op in the future because "you still have companies abusing and exploiting workers."

Blazed a trail

"The fight at Co-Op blazed a trail for what is happening today with millions of immigrants marching in the streets demanding legalization," said Estrada.

"These marches are helping the unions face the biggest political question for the entire labor movement today," Estrada said. "Employers shouldn't be able to get away with what was done at Co-Op."

The company responded to the settlement in the Utah press. "You never win everything in a settlement. You never lose everything. It was the proper thing to do," Carl Kingston, the attorney representing C.W. Mining in the settlement negotiations, told the *Salt Lake Tribune.*

The company, he said, saw the issue as one "centered on protecting employer rights," according to the Salt Lake daily. The *Tribune* said the company now plans to concentrate "on restoring production."

A call by this reporter to the Co-Op Mine for comment about the settlement was not returned.

Miners prepare celebration

The June 4 celebration and Mexican dinner being planned by miners involved in the Co-Op organizing drive will be held at the UMWA hall here in Price at 1:00 p.m.

The miners are inviting all the groups and individuals who have backed the fight over the past three years to join them. The UMWA is sending out information on the event to union locals in the West, and a mailing is being sent out to financial contributors by Bob and Ann Fivecoat, who administered the Co-Op miners' fund.

"The miners are the winners coming out of this standoff with the company," said Ann Fivecoat. "We are definitely going to be there on June 4 to celebrate."

"I hope there's a big turnout June 4," said John Fischer, a retired member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in Seattle who took part in a number of actions in the Price area in solidarity with the Co-Op miners' struggle. "All of us who have been involved in this fight look forward to the opportunity to get together, talk about the struggle, and celebrate."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 29, 1981

War is on the verge of breaking out between Israel and Syria. And as is always the case with war in this strategic Middle East region, there exists the possibility of a U.S.-Soviet confrontation that could endanger the survival of humanity.

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is massing forces along the Lebanese and Syrian borders. Begin is demanding that Syria remove antiaircraft missiles that were moved into Lebanon after two Syrian helicopters were shot down by Israeli jets on April 28.

Bashir Gemayal, leader of the armed bands of ultra-right, pro-Israel Phalangist Party of Lebanon, will soon visit Washington to meet with high Reagan administration officials. And the Pentagon is moving the aircraft carrier USS *Forrestal* to a position off the coast of Lebanon, and moving a second aircraft carrier, USS *Independence*, into the Mediterranean Sea.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

May 28, 1956

Auto layoffs continue to throw more and more workers out of their jobs. An overwhelming majority of those laid off since the first of the year are not eligible to "supplementary unemployment benefits" under the AFL-CIO United Automobile Workers "Guaranteed Annual Wage" plan, which goes into effect on June 1.

As unemployment mounts, increasing numbers of AFL-CIO United Automobile Workers Union members are calling for the 30 hour week at 40 hours pay as the only effective means of stemming the rising tide of layoffs. They are demanding that the UAW International Executive Board invoke the principle of the living agreement to reopen the contract for the inclusion of the 30 for 40 demand.

The auto workers are looking to their leaders to find a solution to the scourge of layoffs sweeping the industry. Both labor and management, says [a] UAW appeal, have a "heavy moral obligation" to cooperate in finding a solution to the "alarming" unemployment situation in the farm implement and auto industries.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America (Opposition)

June 1, 1931

The dock-workers of the Duluth-Superior harbor went back to work on May 15 after an unsuccessful strike to resist a wage cut of 15%. Since this strike is one of many defensive struggles being conducted by sections of the working class in Minnesota its lessons are of great value to the revolutionary movement.

The strike followed the announcement of reduction in wages from 75 cents to 60 cents for all dock-men by the Great Lakes Transit Co., the association of all shippers. There was splendid response from the men. The partial success of the previous season strike was the reason. There was but little scabbing. The strike-breakers were imported from other ports. A strike committee of twenty-five was elected to lead the struggle. Mass picketing was started. Around six hundred workers were involved.

How Lenin answered chauvinist calls in U.S. to exclude Asian immigrants



Japanese immigrants being vaccinated aboard a steamship enroute to Hawaii in 1904. Socialists who support restrictions on immigration are "in reality jingoes," Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin said.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The fight against the capitalist rulers' reactionary immigration policies and for unionizing all workers, native- and foreign-born, has from the outset been at the center of building the revolutionary workers movement. This internationalist perspective has roots going back to the fight led by Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin in the early 20th century to build a worldwide communist movement. Lenin opposed the chauvinist arguments of those who in the name of socialism and "American workers" backed restrictions on Chinese and Japanese immigrants.

This issue was posed sharply at the World Socialist Congress held in Stuttgart, Germany, in August 1907. At the time, migration from Europe to the United States was at its height, while the U.S. rulers were on a drive to halt emigration from China, Japan, and other Asian countries. Washington's racist, anti-working-class policies at home were coupled with its imperial aspirations abroad. In 1908 Tokyo and Washington signed a "gentleman's agreement" halting Japanese immigration into the United States. Two years earlier the California legislature had excluded children of Japanese immigrants from the state's schools. The Chinese Exclusion Act, passed by Congress in 1882 and in force for the next six decades, halted the entry of Chinese immigrants into the country.

The socialist movement in the United States at the time included a revolutionary left wing as well as a right wing that advocated reforming capitalism. The reformist leadership of the U.S. Socialist Party, along with the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor, backed Washington's immigration restrictions. Pointing to how bosses used immigrant labor to hold down wages and sometimes as strikebreakers, they blamed Chinese and Japanese immigrants themselves, claiming that they took away jobs from "American" workers—similar to anti-immigrant rhetoric heard today.

Then, as today, foreign-born workers were a growing component of the U.S. labor force. In 1909 immigrants from eastern and southern Europe comprised one-third of the labor force in U.S. industry. Among iron and steelworkers, 58 percent were immigrants. By 1917, two-thirds of workers in the eastern coalfields, slaughterhouses, garment and textile shops, and munitions plants were born abroad.

At the 1904 International Socialist Congress held in Amsterdam, a resolution was presented by U.S. Socialist Party leader Morris Hillquit, along with delegates from Australia and the Netherlands, calling for restricting immigration of "backward races." Meeting widespread opposition, the resolution was withdrawn.

Right-wing Socialist Party leader Victor Berger from Milwaukee, who in 1911 became the first elected SP member of U.S. Congress, harped on the supposed threat of the "yellow peril." In a 1907 speech he said if something was not done, "this country is absolutely sure to become a black-and-yellow country within a few generations." The SP National Committee voted to back exclusionary measures against such immigrants.

1907 Socialist Congress in Stuttgart

Prior to the opening of the Stuttgart Congress, the U.S. Socialist Party leadership approved an immigration resolution to submit for discussion. It called for campaigning against "the willful importation of cheap foreign labor calculated to destroy labor organizations, to lower the standard of living of the working class, and to retard the ultimate realization of socialism."

A left-wing minority of SP members strongly condemned the party's position. Socialist leader Eugene V. Debs called it "utterly unsocialistic, reactionary, and in truth outrageous."

The SP's resolution became a source of controversy in the Stuttgart Congress's commission on immigration and emigration. This meeting of the Socialist International was attended by 884 delegates from 25 countries, most from Europe, but also the United States, Argentina, Japan, India, Australia, and South Africa.

U.S. delegate Hillquit, defending his party's resolution, argued that unlike "natural immigration" from Europe, "capitalism's importation of foreign labor cheaper than that of native-born workers" is "a pool of unconscious strikebreakers." He asserted, "Chinese and Japanese workers play that role today, as does the yellow race in general…. Do we want to grant privileges to foreign strikebreakers when they are locked in struggle with native-born workers? If we fail to take measure against the importation of Chinese strikebreakers, we will thrust the Socialist workers' movement backwards."

Kato Tokijiro, a representative of the Japanese Socialists, responded, "It would be a slap in the face to socialism if you were to exclude the poor, exploited Japanese…. It is the duty of Socialists to welcome these poor brothers, to defend them, and together with them to fight capitalism. The founder of socialism, above all Karl Marx, did not address themselves to individual countries but to all humanity. Internationalism is inscribed on our banner."

V.I. Lenin, who attended the Congress as one of the Bolshevik party delegates, described the U.S. delegates' proposal as "an attempt to defend narrow, craft interests." In an article published in the newspaper *Proletary* shortly after the Congress, he said, "This is the same spirit of aristocratism that one finds among workers in some of the 'civilised' countries, who derive certain advantages from their privileged position, and are, therefore, inclined to forget the need for international class solidarity." He noted that the Stuttgart delegates rejected this "petty-bourgeois narrow-mindedness."

Lenin's letter to socialists in U.S.

Lenin came back to this question several years later in a November 1915 letter to the Socialist Propaganda League (SPL), a left-wing formation within the Socialist Party in the United States. The SPL had been initiated by the grouping of Latvian immigrants in the SP.

Lenin wrote, "In our struggle for true internationalism and against 'jingo-socialism,' we always quote in our press the example of the opportunist leaders of the S.P. in America, who are in favor of restrictions of the immigration of Chinese and Japanese workers (especially after the Congress of Stuttgart, 1907, and *against* the decisions of Stuttgart).

"We think that one can not be internationalist and be at the same time in favor of such restrictions. And we assert that Socialists in America, especially English Socialists, belonging to the ruling, and *oppressing* nation, who are not against any restrictions of immigration, against the possession of colonies (Hawaii) and for the entire freedom of colonies, that such Socialists are in reality jingoes."

Under the impact of the October 1917 Russian Revolution, the revolutionary wing of the American SP broke with the social-patriotic leadership and founded the Communist Party in 1919. Learning from Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders, the early communists in the United States championed working-class internationalism and the rights of the most oppressed layers of the working class. Today the Socialist Workers Party, drawing on that political continuity, maintains the Bolsheviks' proletarian course.

More people in U.S. lack health coverage

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

The number of people in the United States without medical coverage continues to increase, especially among working people, according to a study released in April by the New York–based Commonwealth Fund.

The survey showed that 28 percent of adults under 64 lacked health coverage at some time last year, an increase from 26 percent in 2003.

The most dramatic increase was among those with "moderate incomes" of $20,000 to $40,000 annually. Five years ago 28 percent of those surveyed in that group lacked coverage. By last year the figure had risen to 41 percent.

Well over half of those who earn less than $20,000 a year lack coverage.

More than half of uninsured adults reported medical debt or bill problems. Nearly half reported they had used up all their savings to pay these bills.

As a result, more people use emergency rooms for medical treatment, despite lengthy waits, or are delaying decisions to seek treatment until symptoms become acute. The survey found that more than 35 percent of uninsured adults went to an emergency room or stayed overnight in a hospital, compared with 16 percent of those who were insured.

Natives occupying land in Canada win solidarity

BY JOHN STEELE

CALEDONIA, Ontario—Members of the Six Nations have been occupying a housing construction site near here since February 28 for "land reclamation." Defying court injunctions and police harassment, Native activists have now erected a second barricade on the Highway 6 bypass and have forced the Ontario government into negotiations on their historic land claims. The action has generated solidarity by Native people and others across the country. It has become the front line in the struggle of Canada's 1.3 million Natives to end their national oppression.

Provocative demonstrations by some Caledonia residents demanding the cops move in to end the highway blockades have recently confronted the Six Nations defenders. The barricades were built in response to an April 20 provincial police raid, which failed to remove the Six Nations members from the site.

On April 24, following a rally of 3,000 organized by municipal politicians and business people, 500 marched on the main barricade. Four days later, another 500 confronted well-organized Six Nations defenders across the barricade with the police standing in between.

At one point a leaflet was circulated here purporting to announce a meeting featuring a Klu Klux Klan speaker on the "final solution" to the "Indian problem." No such meeting took place and the cops declared it a hoax. On May 6 a new organization calling itself Caledonia Resistance brought out numbers significantly smaller than the previous anti-Native rallies. "The road has been blocked for only a week," said Six Nations defenders Wendy Hill at an April 30 press conference at the Two Arrow Cafe on the reserve. "We have been held up over 200 years."

The Six Nations Confederacy chiefs state that Douglas Creek Estates being built by Henco Industries is part of a massive parcel of land given to them by the British colonialists in 1784. Government officials claim the land was sold in 1841.

The Ontario government has now appointed former Ontario premier David Peterson as a negotiator. For the first time since 1924 when the traditional Confederacy chiefs were forcibly replaced by the federal government with band councils, the Native chiefs will be sitting across from government negotiators. The stance of the Six Nations is expressed in a slogan painted on the bridge into the reserve where the second blockade is located. It states, "Our Native lands are not for sale."

Joe Young contributed to this article.

Cuba, Venezuela aid Bolivia

Continued from front page

Bolivia and Cuba, at absolutely no cost," the Cuban News Agency reported April 24.

The Morales government, which took office in January, plans to use Cuban aid to open ophthalmology centers in the capital, La Paz, and Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Sucre, Potosí, and Copacabana. They will have a combined capacity to operate on at least 100,000 people a year. In addition, the Cuban government is providing 5,000 scholarships to Bolivians to study medicine in Cuba.

Currently some 700 volunteer Cuban doctors are providing free medical care throughout Bolivia. This includes helping to staff and equip 20 rural hospitals. "We have doctors in Bolivia and they don't want to come out here," said Della Pacheco, 30, a small store owner in El Palomar, located 30 miles south of La Paz, according to an article in the May 14 *New York Times*. "At least we now have a president who remembers the most out-of-the-way areas." The article was headlined, "U.S. Aid Can't Win Bolivia's Love as New Suitors Emerge."

"The United States just subordinated Latin America and Bolivia, and it bothers me," medical student Enrique de la Cruz told the *Times*. "The alliances with Venezuela and Cuba are super."

The growing popularity of these programs is in sharp contrast to Washington's "aid" to Bolivia, much of which focuses on training Bolivian military officers and, under the guise of eradicating coca crop production, deepening U.S. military operations in the country.

Morales won the presidency by campaigning for an end to this U.S.-led "war on drugs," and for greater state control of the oil and natural gas industry, which he announced May 1 would be nationalized. In February Washington announced plans to slash military aid to Bolivia by 96 percent, from $1.7 million in the current fiscal year to $70,000.



New York Times/ Noah Friedman-Rudovsky

Residents of El Alto, Bolivia, wait to see Cuban doctors at eye clinic, one of many equipped by Cuba and staffed by Cuban personnel who offer quality health care free of charge.

Advisers to Bolivian volunteers in the literacy program are coming from Cuba and Venezuela. Havana is also providing reading materials and 30,000 television sets. The goal is to teach 720,000 Bolivians to read and write in two years. In addition to Spanish, the program will be conducted in Aymara, Quechua, and Guaraní.

"I cannot believe it," Francisca Tarqui, an Aymara Indian, told the *Times* in El Palomar. "I am 83 years old," she added. "Now I am going to go to school. I always wanted to learn to read."

Morales defended his government's steps to nationalize Bolivia's oil and natural gas industry at the European Union–Latin American summit, attended by representatives of some 60 governments from the two continents. The gathering was held in Vienna, Austria, May 11–13. "For more than 500 years our natural resources have been pillaged and our primary goods exported," Morales said. "This has to end now."

"Morales seemed to harden his country's bargaining position, saying that some foreign companies might not get compensation because Bolivians have yet to benefit from technologies used in the oil and gas sectors," the Associated Press reported May 11. "If they have recovered their investment, then there is no reason to compensate them whatsoever," Morales said. "If we expropriated assets or technology we would have to provide compensation, but in this case we are not expropriating."

U.S. president speaks on immigration policy

Continued from front page

millions of immigrant workers and their supporters across the country to demand legislation regularizing the status of all undocumented workers.

Immigrant rights actions have continued, including a May 17 rally in Washington sponsored by the National Capital Immigration Coalition and other groups. The New York Immigration Coalition called a March for Justice for Immigrants on May 20.

"No guard, no wall will keep us from crossing," Jorge Gutiérrez, a worker preparing to cross into the United States from the Mexican border city of Juárez, told the Associated Press May 15.

"For Mexicans, there are no obstacles," another worker, Jesús Rodríguez, told AP in response to the White House proposal.

The immigrant rights demonstrations were precipitated by opposition to the House-approved bill, HR 4437, sponsored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner, which would make it a felony for anyone to be in the United States without proper documents. As protests spread across the country, including mobilizations of 2 million workers on April 9–10 and again on May 1, the senators were unable to come to agreement on a bill before their spring recess. In his May 15 speech, Bush weighed in with his proposals and pressed the Senate to come up with a bill by the end of May.

In order to "secure our borders," Bush proposed expanding the Border Patrol from 12,000 to 18,000 agents over the next two years, and to deploy up to 6,000 National Guard troops to support the border cops during this period. He insisted that the soldiers would carry out logistical tasks, not arrests, and that the government "is not going to militarize the southern border."

Other steps to tighten border control would include high-tech fences and surveillance by unmanned drones. The number of beds in immigration jails would be expanded and the deportation process would be expedited, he said.

At the same time, taking issue with supporters of the Sensenbrenner bill, Bush said, "We must face the reality that millions of illegal immigrants are already here." It is "neither wise nor realistic to round up millions of people, many with deep roots in the United States, and send them across the border."

Some 12 million undocumented immigrants, mostly from Latin America, live in the United States. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, about 7.2 million of these workers were employed in March 2005, accounting for 5 percent of the workforce. About 40 percent have arrived in the past five years, an inflow nearly five times higher than in the 1980s. Unlike previous decades when they were concentrated mostly in a few large urban centers, including Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, and Miami, immigrants today live and work in virtually every region of the country. They number 35 million, about 12 percent of the population.

For the millions of undocumented immigrants "who have roots in our country and want to stay," Bush called for providing a route to gain permanent residency and citizenship. Insisting that his proposal was not an amnesty, he said they should be required to pay a penalty, undergo security checks, learn English, work in a job for a number of years, and "wait in line behind those who played by the rules."

Reiterating his call for a "guest worker" plan, the president said, "The reality is that there are many people on the other side of our border who will do anything to come to America to work and build a better life." It is an inflow "that walls and patrols alone will not stop." He said a guest worker plan "would meet the needs of our economy."

The dependence of many industries on the labor of undocumented immigrants was underscored by the dozens of packinghouses, garment shops, construction sites, and agricultural operations that shut down when workers across the country skipped work on May 1.

Under the plan Bush proposed, workers outside the United States could apply for a temporary visa if they had a job offer and passed background checks. But they would have to return to their country of origin after several years when their visa expired.

Bush said that all "legal foreign workers" would be issued a "tamper-proof" ID card carrying personal information, such as digital fingerprints, centralized in a federal database allowing verification of their employment eligibility.

The White House proposal is similar to the bill under debate in the Senate. That measure would double the border police to 24,000 over the next five years, establish a guest worker plan, and put in place provisions, subject to onerous fines and other conditions, under which many undocumented immigrants could eventually gain permanent residency.

Presenting the Democrats' response to Bush's speech, Sen. Richard Durbin largely agreed with the proposals. "Democrats are willing to support any reasonable plan that will secure our borders, including the de-

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U.S. gov't bans arms sales to Venezuela

Continued from front page

Cuba and Iran, two state sponsors of terrorism that we find worrisome, especially in terms of intelligence liaison relationships."

A 2005 U.S. State Department report on terrorism, published in late April, made the same claim. It said, "Venezuela virtually ceased its cooperation in the global war on terror." It claimed Caracas has provided a safe haven to guerrilla forces operating in Colombia. Under Plan Colombia, initiated by the Clinton administration in 1999, Washington has been providing increasing military aid to Bogotá, amounting to some $4 billion.

According to the Associated Press, Venezuela purchased less than $34 million worth of military equipment from the United States last year, mostly for spare parts for cargo planes.

The U.S. ban formalizes a de facto policy. Last November, Washington blocked sales of eight Spanish patrol boats and 12 aircraft to Venezuela on the grounds the equipment contained U.S. technology. This year, it quashed the sale of four Brazilian jets to Venezuela, citing U.S. components in the aircraft. The Pentagon has also refused to sell spare parts for F-16 fighter jets Caracas bought in the 1980s, before Chávez was elected president.

"The U.S. wants us to be defenseless," Chávez declared during a recent television address. "It does not want to either sell new weapon systems, or spare parts for old ones."

On a visit to London when the decision was announced, Chávez told the press the arms ban "doesn't matter to us at all." His government has been buying most of its defense equipment from Russia and Spain. Chávez also referred to Washington as an "irrational empire," which, he said, has a "great capacity to do harm to the countries of the world."

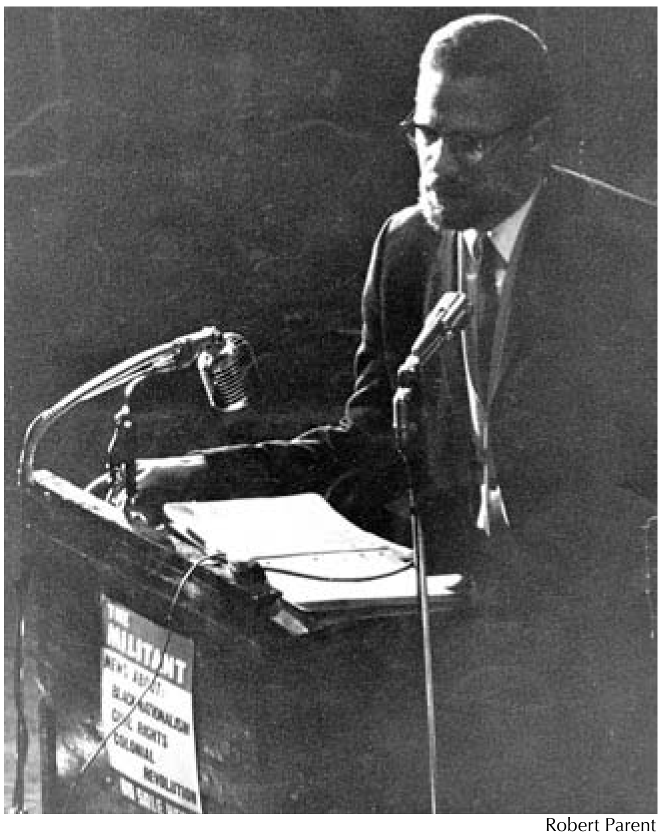
Washington has backed repeated attempts by sections of the capitalist class in Venezuela to overthrow the Chávez administration. These include the failed military coup in April 2002, a boss lockout centered in the oil industry in December of that year, and a presidential recall referendum in August 2004. These efforts by the Venezuelan capitalists have each failed because of mass mobilizations by workers and peasants, who have gained more space since Chávez came to the presidency to fight for land, jobs, and democratic rights.

1965: Malcolm X speaks on 'Prospects for Freedom'

Below is an excerpt from Malcolm X Speaks. *The Spanish-language edition,* Habla Malcolm X, *is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. The excerpt is from a talk Malcolm gave at the Militant Labor Forum in New York City on Jan. 7, 1965, entitled "Prospects for Freedom in 1965." In the talk Malcolm refers to the efforts by representatives of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) to block the seating of Mississippi's five segregationist U.S. representatives when Congress convened on Jan. 4, 1965.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Democratic Party presidential candidate Lyndon Johnson and his running mate Hubert Humphrey played a pivotal role in brushing aside the MFDP's challenge to seating a segregationist delegation at the 1964 Democratic Party convention.



Robert Parent

Malcolm X addressing Militant Labor Forum on "Prospects for Freedom in 1965" in New York City, Jan. 7, 1965.

BY MALCOLM X

Mr. Chairman (who's one of my brothers), ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters: It is an honor to me to come back to the Militant Labor Forum again this evening. It's my third time here. I was just telling my brother up here that probably tomorrow morning the press will try to make it appear that this little chat that we're having here this evening took place in Peking or someplace else. They have a tendency to discolor things in that way, to try and make people not place the proper importance upon what they hear, especially when they're hearing it from persons they can't control, or, as my brother just pointed out, persons whom they consider "irresponsible."

It's the third time that I've had the opportunity to be a guest of the Militant. Labor Forum. I always feel that it is an honor and every time that they open the door for me to do so, I will be right here. The *Militant* newspaper is one of the best in New York City. In fact, it is one of the best anywhere you go today because everywhere I go I see it. I saw it even in Paris about a month ago; they were reading it over there. And I saw it in some parts of Africa where I was during the summer. I don't know how it gets there. But if you put the right things in it, what you put in it will see that it gets around.

Tonight, during the few moments that we have, we're going to have a little chat, like brothers and sisters and friends, and probably enemies too, about the prospects for peace—or the prospects for freedom in 1965. As you notice, I almost slipped and said peace. Actually you can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom. You can't separate the two—and this is the thing that makes 1965 so explosive and so dangerous….

In 1964, 97 percent of the black American voters supported Lyndon B. Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, and the Democratic Party. Ninety-seven percent! No one minority group in the history of the world has ever given so much of its uncompromising support to one candidate and one party. No one people, no one group, has ever gone all the way to support a party and its candidate as did the black people in America in 1964….

And the first act of the Democratic Party, Lyndon B included, in 1965, when the representatives from the state of Mississippi who *refused* to support Johnson came to Washington, D. C., and the black people of Mississippi sent representatives there to challenge the legality of these people being seated—what did Johnson say? Nothing! What did Humphrey say? Nothing! What did Robert Pretty-Boy Kennedy say? Nothing! Nothing! Not one thing! These are the people that black people have supported. This is the party that they have supported. Where were they when the black man needed them a couple days ago in Washington, D.C.? They were where they always are—twiddling their thumbs someplace in the poolroom, or in the gallery.

Black people in 1965 will not be controlled by these Uncle Tom leaders, believe me; they won't be held in check, they won't be held on the plantation by these overseers, they won't be held on the corral, they won't be held back at all.

The frustration of these black representatives from Mississippi, when they arrived in Washington, D.C., the other day, thinking, you know, that the Great Society was going to include them—only to see the door closed in their face like that—that's what makes them think. That's what makes them realize what they're up against. It is this type of frustration that produced the Mau Mau. They reached the point where they saw that it takes power to talk to power. It takes power to make power respect you. It takes madness almost to deal with a power structure that's so corrupt, so corrupt.

So in 1965 we should see a lot of action. Since the old methods haven't worked, they'll be forced to try new methods….

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EDITORIAL

Legalization now!

Continued from front page

indication that many in the ruling class find themselves between a rock and a hard place. Like the bipartisan Senate immigration bill currently under debate, and the Sensenbrenner bill adopted by the House of Representatives in December, the White House proposed adding thousands of cops to the Border Patrol. Bush also advocated deploying up to 6,000 National Guard troops on the border that would not have a direct policing role.

Bush did so above all to appease those on the right who oppose any measure that would legalize the undocumented. The move is also designed to gain public acceptance for the future use of the military in domestic operations to crack down on anticipated working-class resistance.

The purpose of tightening border controls is not to bar or deport all undocumented immigrants. As Bush himself noted in his speech, that is impossible and not in the interests of U.S. employers. In fact, the U.S. economy would sink into stagnation if bosses had to rely solely on the exploitation of native-born workers. That is why the American capitalists themselves attract labor power from around the world.

What most employers seek is a steady flow of immigrant labor that can be kept in second-class status. That is the aim of the various "guest worker" proposals, under which immigrants would have to leave the country after a number of years. That's also the aim of the Senate bill, largely endorsed by Bush, to establish a "path toward citizenship" under restrictive conditions such as onerous "fines" and making workers' legal status dependent on their bosses. The goal of these various measures is to maintain a superexploited pool of labor and foster divisions among workers.

The U.S. capitalists draw in immigrants from abroad on a massive scale and organize entire industries relying on their labor in order to reap superprofits. The employers use their police to maintain this situation through the permanent threat of deportation.

When defenders of the status quo rail against "illegals" breaking the law, they must be answered: What kind of system is it where 12 million working people live and labor in violation of the law? These anti-working-class laws must be challenged and eliminated. As demonstrators often chant at immigrant rights marches: "We are workers, not criminals!"

The labor movement should call for immediate permanent residency for all undocumented immigrants, with no conditions. Such a struggle is in the interests of all working people, foreign- and U.S.-born alike.

This is a great challenge for the union movement. Immigrant labor can push down wages. Increased competition for jobs under capitalism, whatever its source, *does* lower wages. It *does* lead to layoffs. *Unless* all workers, regardless of national origin, are organized into unions. *Unless* the labor movement champions the struggles of all oppressed and superexploited layers of the working class, in order to wage a more united, a more effective fight for the interests of working people as a whole. Under those conditions, the working class and the trade unions become way more powerful.

To do so today, the labor movement needs to lead the unfolding battle for legislation to unconditionally legalize all immigrants.

Bush speaks on immigration policy

Continued from page 7

ployment of National Guard troops," he said. But Durbin criticized the administration for not expanding the Border Patrol as much as it had promised.

Democratic senator Patrick Leahy complained that since Bush took office in 2000, border arrests of immigrants had fallen by 31 percent and the number arrested annually inside the country declined to less than 26,000 in Bush's first term, compared to about 40,000 during William Clinton's second term.

While Senate majority leader William Frist and other Republicans supported the president's plan, several House Republicans voiced sharp objections. Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado and others rejected it as an amnesty.

Governors of border states raised concerns about deploying the National Guard. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, a Republican, and Bill Richardson of New Mexico, a Democrat, objected that Bush's proposal would overly stretch the Guard. Arizona governor Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, and Republican Rick Perry of Texas welcomed it. Some 400 National Guard troops have been deployed along the border since 1989 to assist with "antidrug policing."

LETTERS

Workers' self-confidence grows

A photo that appeared on the editorial page of the May 11 *Cincinnati Enquirer* shows four workers arrested in an immigration raid against a local construction firm, Fischer Homes, in which 76 workers were arrested.

The local Boone County sheriff, who has launched a personal campaign against "illegals," has spearheaded these raids. He apparently had hoped to set up a victorious "perp walk" after the arrests, to show cowed "criminals" being led away to jail.

Instead he got four workers, standing tall, heads up, laughing and waving at the photographer as they walk to jail. The picture captured the growing self-confidence of our class that we saw so clearly on May Day.

Mark Gilsdorf
Cincinnati, Ohio

Clarity on 'Israel Lobby'

Just one note on Sam Manuel's excellent article on "Jew hatred." There is a "Jewish Lobby" and an "Israeli Lobby" as well as an Irish Lobby, an Orange Juice Lobby, etc. It is not the existence of an Israel lobby that is at issue, but rather the fact that U.S. foreign policy is made by the U.S. ruling class, not the "Israel Lobby."

As history has demonstrated, the U.S. ruling class could, with a flick of the wrist, turn on the Zionists should they find it convenient to do so. Such "changes of fortune" have been seen again and again—from the expulsion of the Jews from Spain (1492) where they played a prominent role, to the genocide by the fascists in Europe. I recommend Abram Leon's book *The Jewish Question* as a good starting point for arming workers against those who profess to be "objective" and "scientific" but are indeed anti-Semitic to the core.

Robin Maisel
Waco, Texas

Class conflict

I've been reading your excellent series on the transformation of the U.S. military. Comments by the U.S. rulers shed some light on how our employers and their political representatives see the changing world.

In a speech at Georgetown University in January, Condoleezza Rice said, "The greatest threats now emerge more within states than between them. The fundamental character of regimes now matters more than the international distribution of power." In other words, class conflict may play a bigger role in the world than national conflict.

Evan Roberts
Birmingham, Alabama

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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SWP convention

Continued from front page

ing in the United States," Jacob Perasso, organizer of the party's Trade Union Committee, told the *Militant.* "This is propelling millions of workers in the United States into politics."

The recent mobilizations demanding legalization now for undocumented workers, Perasso said, "and those by workers and peasants in Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, and elsewhere, are strengthening the fight against imperialism's offensive on working people at home and abroad. How the party is responding to these developments and to the opportunities for recruiting to the communist movement will be at the heart of the discussions by the delegates at the convention."

On the road to the convention socialist workers and young socialists are joining with others in the celebration of the victory against the harassment lawsuit by C.W. Mining against 16 miners, the United Mine Workers of America, and the *Militant* (see front-page article), Perasso said. They are also helping to build and take part in marches in Los Angeles and Washington to demand "Hands off Venezuela and Cuba," and ongoing work in defense of Cuba's socialist revolution and the popular revolutionary upsurge in Venezuela.

Over the next month, socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists (YS) are focusing their energies on involving fellow unionists, working farmers, and youth interested in the communist movement in campaigning to expand the readership of the *Militant* newspaper, as part of responding to developments in the labor movement and the broader class struggle.

These activities will be combined with the opening of a summer educational program, said Olympia Newton, a national leader of the Young Socialists. YS members will use the classes to advance their understanding of the political foundations of Marxism and broaden the scope of their work. Socialist summer schools will be held in Atlanta, Los Angeles, New York, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The SWP National Committee has submitted for discussion by party members a political platform for the convention, which will be the basis for election of delegates, Perasso said. It consists of two reports by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes, "The World Crisis of Imperialism: The Contradictory Dynamics of the Labor Vanguard," and "Consolidating Our Political Progress and Recruiting to the Communist Movement," which the National Committee adopted in January and March. Another report by Barnes on Black liberation, the working class, and the American socialist revolution has also been submitted for discussion by party members.

Most sessions of the delegated convention will be open to invited observers, Perasso said. Among those attending will be SWP members, Young Socialists, party supporters, and workers and youth who want to get more involved in the activities of the socialist movement.

An international conference will surround the convention sessions. It will feature classes, film showings, literature displays, and social and recreational events.

The classes will draw on the communist movement's political continuity and themes central to the resolutions the delegates will discuss, said SWP National Committee member Norton Sandler. They will include:

- The Case of Leon Trotsky: The Answer to the 1936–37 Moscow Frame-up Trials and the Fight to Continue Lenin's Communist Course Against Stalin's Counterrevolution;
- The Black Struggle and the March to the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in the Americas;
- The Jewish Question: The Danger for the Workers' Movement of the "Israel Lobby" Conspiracy Theory;
- Communism and the Internationalization of the Working Class from Marx, Engels, and Lenin to Today;
- The Struggle for a Proletarian Party and the Organizational Character of the SWP;
- Women's Liberation and the Line of March of the Working Class to Power;
- Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future; and
- Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy.

Movies that will be shown include *Deacons for Defense,* a film on how Black workers, including veterans of the Korean War and World War II, organized to defend their community in Louisiana from Klan violence in the 1960s; and *With Our Memory on the Future,* a documentary produced by the Federation of Cuban Women on the 45th anniversary of the group's founding.

Those interested in attending the SWP convention can contact the nearest branch of the party.